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Remarks: To 17: For your file. This was a basically provocative but supportive group of about 55 men. To 6: Paul: I thought you might be interested that Sam Adams was there and asked no question, nor did he participate in the discussion.

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Approved Release 2002/08/21:

## Oatlands

BOX 352, LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 22075 · TELEPHONE: 703-777-3174

July 30, 1976

Mrs. Isabella Grant, Administrator

OATLANDS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Burr Powell Harrison, Jr., Chairman Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. B. Franklin Nalle, Vice Chairman Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. Thomas Delashmutt, Secretary Aldie, Va.

> Huntington Harris Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin, Jr. Middleburg, Va.

> Emory Kirkpatrick Ashburn, Va.

Donald F. MacKenzie Middleburg, Va.

Mrs. Beach Pennebaker Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Burdette Wright Leesburg, Va.

E. DeLong Bowman The Plains, Va.

Neill Phillips, Rear Admiral (USN Ret.) Upperville, Va.

> Garry Owen Leesburg, Va.

> > Ex-Officio

Robert Carter Vienna, Md.

Mrs. Eustis Emmet Leesburg, Va.

> David E. Finley Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. David E. Finley Leesburg, Va.

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Honorable Gordon Gray Chairman of the Board of Trustees,

James Biddle President

Joseph Prendergast Executive Director

Oatlands is a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Headquarters office: Decatur House on Lafayette Square, 748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 Tel: 202-393-3664 Mr. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr. Secretary General - CIA 3033 Woodland Drive, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Ben:

This is to thank you for the fantastically expert and interesting presentation you gave the men at Oatlands last Friday evening on the subject of the current "intelligence" situation in Washington. I daresay that you have seldom appeared before a group that was more interested in the subject. At times three or four men were trying to ask questions or talk at the same moment. All of this, of course, was evidence of the extreme interest our group had in the subject and the clever way in which you brought forth the questions from the men so that you would not have to make statements in advance.

It was a most successful evening and it was certainly delightful to me to have had such a wonderful opportunity to meet you and see you in action. My sincerest thanks on behalf of Oatlands and I hope you will be able to attend our next two meetings as one of the gang. They will take place at Oatlands 8 p.m. Friday night, September 17th, and again Friday evening, October 15th. With thanks again and the best of wishes.

Sincerely,

B. POWELL HARRISON, JR.

P. O. Box 324

Leesburg, Virginia

22075

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76-2601/A

ER

25 June 1976

Mr. B. Powell Harrison, Jr. P. O. Box 324
Leesburg, Virginia 22075

Dear Mr. Harrison:

This will acknowledge your letter of 16 June inviting my participation in your "Conversations" at Oatlands on 23 July. I am pleased to accept and will count on your assurances that this session will be "off the record and that no newsmen will be present."

Jan and I are also delighted to accept Mrs. Prendergast's kind invitation for dinner.

Sincerely,

O. C. Evens !

B. C. Evans
Executive Secretary

cc: Mrs. Joseph Prendergast Mr. Alfred Dennis

ES/BCEvans:sfc Distribution: O - Addressee

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Executive Registry

76-2601

## Oatlands

BOX 352, LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 22075 · TELEPHONE: 703-777-3174

June 16, 1976

Mrs. Miriam Rabb, Administrator

OATLANDS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Burr Powell Harrison, Jr., Chairman Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. Burdette S. Wright, Vice Chairman Leesburg, Va.

> Mrs. Joseph Prendergast, Secretary Aldie, Va.

> > E. DeLong Bowman The Plains, Va.

> > Phillip P. Brownrigg Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. William C. Grayson Upperville, Va.

> Huntington Harris Leesburg, Va.

Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin, Jr. Middleburg, Va.

> Donald F. MacKenzie Middleburg, Va.

The Hon. George C. McGhee Middleburg, Va.

> W. Hugh Peal Leesburg, Va.

Neill Phillips, Rear Admiral (USN Ret.) Upperville, Va.

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The Honorable Gordon Gray Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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Dear Mr. Evans:

I am thrilled to be informed by both Mrs. Joseph Prendergast of Oak Hill and Mr. Alfred Dennis of Leesburg that you are willing to be the program for our Conversation at Oatlands on July 23rd at 8 p.m. in the evening. You and Mrs. Evans will be invited to a dinner prior to the 8 p.m. event.

The subject matter which we have designated for our session that evening is "America's Current Intelligence Flap. Where to, now?", a subject in which you are so closely associated. I hasten to add that your comments will be off the record and that no newsmen will be present. This is the ninth season of our Conversations at Oatlands program and they have always been strictly private for the benefit of the persons present and have never been reported in the press. We have had many important government officials, including Dean Rusk, all of whom felt free to speak their minds.

The Conversations are limited to 50 people, all men. It is a stag function. It is held in the main room of the Oatlands plantation house and a bar will be operated during the evening. The concept is that we men of the area will be discussing the problems of the day in an informal way and over a glass of booze, as did George Carter back around 1810.

I will introduce you to the group between 8:00 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. You can develop the theme in any way you wish and take any type of liberty, your uninterrupted

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Mr. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr. Page Two June 16, 1976

comments running from 20 to 40 minutes, depending upon your personal choice. Then, you can throw the subject open to questions. Our group are not at all bashful to bring up questions. After about 20 minutes to a half hour of questions, the group usually falls into sort of a debate or overall discussion with the men present expressing their opinions; hence our title of "Conversations." I will sit by you and assist in managing the question and discussion period to the extent that it appears necessary. As the discussion begins to tail off, I exercise my pludgment and declare the evening at an end, seldom prior to 9:30 p.m. and never later than 10 p.m.

It is exceedingly good of you to show an interest in being with us. I am sure you will enjoy meeting our group, and perhaps in the future you would like to participate in it as one of the regular members. We will be happy to add you as a complimentary member for the remaining sessions this year and see that you receive notices, and next year you will receive the usual invitation to join the group for the season, which this year cost \$35.

Please let me know what questions you may have and if we may look forward to having you as our guest conversationalist for Friday evening, July 23rd.

Sincerely,

B. POWELL HARRISON, JR.

P. O. Box 324

Leesburg, Virginia 22075

BPH, Jr:bac

cc: Mrs. Joseph Prendergast
Mr. Alfred Dennis